

1 (Revision 1)

2 **Ab initio computation on the Fe *L*-edge X-ray emission spectroscopy of**  
3 **Fe-bearing MgSiO<sub>3</sub> perovskite**

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9  
10 **Abstract**

11 We systematically investigated the *L*-edge X-ray emission spectroscopy (XES), a *3d*-to-*2p*  
12 transition, of Fe<sup>2+</sup>- and Fe<sup>3+</sup>- bearing MgSiO<sub>3</sub> perovskite under high pressure based on the  
13 internally consistent LSDA+*U* technique combined with the Slater-transition method. The  
14 Fe *L*-edge XES spectra can be used to directly interpolate the distribution of Fe-*3d* electrons  
15 including the spin states and coordination environments of iron. Our results show that the  
16 spin transition from the high-spin state to low-spin state of Fe<sup>2+</sup> and Fe<sup>3+</sup> can be identified  
17 easily by the *L*-edge XES technique. The valence state of Fe (2+ or 3+) can be verified by  
18 this, since a shift of the first main peak of Fe<sup>2+</sup> across the spin transition of 2 eV, in good  
19 agreement with the experimental value (~1.6 eV), is significantly smaller than that of Fe<sup>3+</sup> of  
20 4 eV. The width of the *L*-edge XES of Fe<sup>3+</sup> also depends strongly on the substitution sites  
21 (Mg or Si), meaning that its coordination environments might also be distinguishable based  
22 on the Fe *L*-edge XES spectra. These strong sensitivities to the Fe's states suggest that the

23 high-resolution Fe *L*-edge XES would be a useful experimental technique to investigate  
24 Fe-bearing silicate minerals.

25 **Keywords:** First-principles method, *L*-edge XES, Fe-bearing MgSiO<sub>3</sub> perovskite, high  
26 pressures

27

## 28 1. Introduction

29 Iron is one of the dominant impurities in the minerals of the potential Earth's lower mantle  
30 (LM) such as in MgSiO<sub>3</sub> and MgO (e.g., Hemley and Cohen 1992; Irifune and Tsuchiya  
31 2007). Therefore, behavior of Fe in different spin states, valence states, and coordination  
32 environments need to be clarified in order to improve our understanding of the LM.  
33 Researchers have already focused extensively on the behavior of Fe in LM minerals, which  
34 can be affected by several factors such as pressure and concentration of dissolving trivalent  
35 aluminium (Al<sup>3+</sup>), which is believed to be another dominant impurity in LM minerals  
36 (Irifune 1997; Bardro et al. 2003, 2004; Li et al. 2004, 2006; Frost and Langenhorst 2002;  
37 Nishio-Hamane et al. 2005; Lin et al. 2005; Catalli et al. 2010; Fujino et al. 2012). Frost and  
38 Langenhorst (2002) confirmed that a fraction of Fe<sup>3+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup>/ΣFe, in Fe-bearing MgSiO<sub>3</sub>  
39 perovskite (Pv) increases with the concentration of increasing Al. The pressure-induced spin  
40 transition of Fe in Fe-bearing MgO (ferropericlase) and MgSiO<sub>3</sub> Pv and postperovskite  
41 (PPv) was observed via Fe *K*-edge X-ray emission spectroscopy (XES) or Mössbauer  
42 spectroscopy (Bardro et al. 2003, 2004; Li et al. 2004, 2006; Lin et al. 2005; McCammon et  
43 al. 2008; Catalli et al. 2010; Fujino et al. 2012). However, interpretations of the results  
44 obtained by these techniques are sometimes ambiguous. For example, very similar spectral

45 variations observed with increasing pressure were assigned to the spin transition of Fe from  
46 the initial high-spin (HS) to the final low-spin (LS) state (Li et al. 2004, 2006) or to the final  
47 intermediate spin (IS) state (McCammon et al. 2008) in Mg-Pv. Furthermore, not only the  
48 stable spin states but also their site dependence continued to be debated. Jackson et al.  
49 (2005) reported that in Fe<sup>3+</sup>-bearing Mg-Pv, iron at the Mg site (hereafter denoted A site)  
50 became LS in the LM pressure range. Nevertheless, some other experimental results showed  
51 that Fe<sup>3+</sup> in the A site remains HS even up to 136 GPa (Li et al. 2006; Catalli et al. 2010).  
52 Recently, based on spectral measurements, Fujino et al. (2012) proposed that Fe<sup>3+</sup> in the A  
53 site of Mg-Pv would move to the Si site (hereafter denoted B site) after 40 GPa and then  
54 would undergo a spin transition. Meanwhile, theoretical simulations were also conducted for  
55 better understanding of the spin transition behavior of Fe (Tsuchiya et al. 2006; Hsu et al.  
56 2011; Fukui et al. 2012; Tsuchiya and Wang, 2013), since the spin transition of Fe was  
57 suggested to impact physical properties of LM minerals such as density, sound velocity,  
58 thermal conductivity, and so on (Lin and Tsuchiya 2008; Catalli et al. 2010). Theoretical  
59 results also showed that the Fe spin transition strongly depends on its substitution sites and  
60 valence charges. Fe<sup>2+</sup> incorporated into MgO and Fe<sup>3+</sup> at the B site of Mg-Pv underwent the  
61 HS-LS transition in the LM pressure range, while no spin transition was observed when Fe  
62 was substituted at the A site of Mg-Pv with geophysically relevant Fe concentrations  
63 (Tsuchiya et al. 2006; Bengtson et al. 2009; Hsu et al. 2011, 2012; Metsue and Tsuchiya  
64 2011, 2012; Fukui et al. 2012; Tsuchiya and Wang, 2013). In those studies, no stability of  
65 the IS state was ensured, suggesting that there are still technical difficulties in high-pressure  
66 experiments to identify the valence state and coordination environment of Fe clearly. Indeed,

67 the Fe *K*-edge XES technique often used in experiments (Bardro et al. 2003, 2004; Li et al.  
68 2004, 2006; Lin et al. 2005; 2008; McCammon et al. 2008; Catalli et al. 2010; Fujino et al.  
69 2012) can only illustrate the spin state of Fe clearly, whereas it is not easy to distinguish  
70 between Fe<sup>2+</sup> and Fe<sup>3+</sup> and to identify the position, the A or B site, since the *K*-edge XES  
71 detects the Fe 3*p*-orbital feature only.

72 Because the 2*p*-to-3*d* transition is an electric-dipole transition that is allowed  
73 according to the selection rules, the Fe *L*-edge XES can directly describe the distribution and  
74 intensity of Fe-3*d* characteristics and therefore can be used to illustrate features of valence  
75 orbitals of Fe in Fe-bearing LM minerals. Actually, one pioneering measurement on the Fe  
76 *L*-edge XES of ferropicriolite at high pressure was already done using the Resonant XES  
77 technique (Lin et al. 2010). Their results showed that the pressure-induced spin crossover of  
78 ferrous Fe in MgO could be identified through the analysis of its *L*-edge XES, whose main  
79 peak was pushed up about 1.6 eV across the HS-LS transition. However, to the best of our  
80 knowledge, there are no experimental or theoretical reports about the Fe *L*-edge XES of  
81 Fe-bearing Mg-Pv, where the substitution mechanism of Fe is much more complicated than  
82 in MgO. In this study, we systematically investigated the Fe *L*-edge XES of Fe-bearing  
83 Mg-Pv under high pressure by using first-principles methods combined with the  
84 Slater-transition method to show the *L*-edge XES features of Fe in Fe-bearing Mg-Pv and to  
85 offer theoretical references for future experiments, where Fe in different spin states (HS or  
86 LS), valence states (2+ or 3+), and substituted sites (A or B site) were considered.

87

## 88 **2. Computational Details**

89 The lattice structures of Fe-bearing Mg-Pv are obtained including the screened Coulomb  
90 interaction ( $U$ ) for the Fe-3d electrons based on the internally consistent LSDA+ $U$   
91 formalism (Cococcioni and de Gironcoli, 2005; Tsuchiya et al. 2006; Metsue and Tsuchiya  
92 2011; Tsuchiya and Wang 2013) implemented in the QE code, (Giannozzi et al. 2009)  
93 where the plane wave basis is used to describe valence orbitals and the effects of core  
94 electrons and nuclei are approximated by pseudo-potentials. All structure models presented  
95 in this work are simulated by taking a  $2 \times 2 \times 1$  supercell of orthorhombic Mg-Pv containing  
96 80 atoms with one substituted Fe ion, corresponding to the an iron concentration of 0.0625.  
97 The plane wave cutoff energy is 50 Ry and a  $2 \times 2 \times 2$  Monkhorst-Pack grid is adopted for the  
98 supercell to sample the irreducible parts of the Brillouin zone (Monkhorst and Pack 1976).  
99 All these parameters are the same as those applied in our previous works for Fe<sup>2+</sup> and  
100 Fe<sup>3+</sup>-bearing Pv and PPv (Metsue and Tsuchiya 2011, 2012; Tsuchiya and Wang 2013). The  
101 two valence states of 2+ and 3+, two spin states of the HS and LS, and two substituted A  
102 and B sites of Fe are examined here. The IS state is also considered for some cases. To  
103 analyze one Fe<sup>3+</sup> ion at the A or B site clearly, one Al<sup>3+</sup> ion is simultaneously introduced at  
104 the B or A site, respectively, for charge neutrality. The position of Al<sup>3+</sup> is selected to  
105 minimize the Fe<sup>3+</sup>-Al<sup>3+</sup> distance, which is electrostatically more favorable than dissociated  
106 configurations of these trivalent cations (e.g., Tsuchiya and Wang 2013). In summary, in  
107 total seven different spin and iron configurations are investigated in this study: (1) Fe<sup>2+</sup>  
108 doped at the A site in the HS (hereafter denoted as  $A_{\text{HS}}^{2+}$ ), (2) in the LS ( $A_{\text{LS}}^{2+}$ ), and (3) in the  
109 IS ( $A_{\text{IS}}^{2+}$ ); (4) Fe<sup>3+</sup> substituted at the A site in the HS ( $A_{\text{HS}}^{3+}$ ) and (5) in the LS ( $A_{\text{LS}}^{3+}$ ); (6) Fe<sup>3+</sup>  
110 doped at the B site in the HS ( $B_{\text{HS}}^{3+}$ ) and (7) in the LS ( $B_{\text{LS}}^{3+}$ ). For each case, all the structural

111 degrees of freedom, the cell parameters, and the atomic coordinates are fully relaxed at static  
112 pressures of 0, 30, 60, and 120 GPa with the  $U$  values non-empirically optimized for each  
113 iron configuration at each pressure by linear response procedures (Cococcioni and de  
114 Gironcoli 2005). The  $U$  values applied in this study are listed in Table I, which are taken  
115 from our previous works about  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ -bearing (Metsue and Tsuchiya 2012) and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ -bearing  
116 Mg-Pv (Tsuchiya and Wang 2013). Spectral features for the obtained structures are then  
117 calculated by using the CP2K code (<http://cp2k.berlios.de>), which is based on the Gaussian  
118 and augmented plane wave (GAPW) all-electron formalism (Lippert et al. 1999) combined  
119 with the Slater-transition potential method (Iannuzzi and Hutter 2007). These methods have  
120 been used in our previous works to calculate the X-ray spectra of nitrogen doped graphene,  
121 and our simulated results agree well with experimental measurements (Wang et al. 2011,  
122 2013). The Ahlrichs-pVDZ basis set is used for representing the atomic orbitals (Schäfer et  
123 al. 1992), while a cutoff of 280 Ry is adopted to expand the plane wave. The spectra are  
124 convoluted by using the Gaussian function with a width of 0.3 eV (Iannuzzi and Hutter  
125 2007). To illustrate effects of the Hubbard  $U$  correction clearly, the electronic structures and  
126 spectral features obtained in the framework of the generalized gradient approximation  
127 (GGA) (Perdew et al. 1996) are also calculated. Our test calculations show that the  
128 electronic structures presented in this paper obtained by using the CP2K code agree well  
129 with the QE code counterparts.

130

### 131 **3. About $U$ Values**

132 The LDA and GGA methods, mean-field type treatments, can describe systems with

133 delocalized electrons well. However, they cannot accurately simulate the partially filled  
134 bands, where the electrons are strongly correlated and localized. Usually, representation for  
135 the large on-site Coulombic interaction among localized electrons can be improved by  
136 introducing the Hubbard  $U$  correction (eg., Anisimov et al. 1991). To better extract the  
137 properties of Fe-bearing Mg-Pv, the Hubbard  $U$  correction is included in this work by means  
138 of an internally consistent method as mentioned in the previous section. The  $U$  values  
139 applied in the present calculations are presented in Table 1. Except for the case of  $A_{\text{HS}}^{2+}$  at 0  
140 GPa, the Hubbard  $U$  values are almost independent of pressure and Fe's valence state, and  
141 those for the LS state are generally 1.38~1.88 eV larger than the corresponding values of the  
142 HS state. As shown in Fig. 3, this is partially because the distributions of the  $d$  orbitals in LS  
143  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  are much more localized than the counterpart of HS Fe, which therefore  
144 acquires smaller  $U$  values due to weaker localization of the  $d$  electrons. In contrast, only at 0  
145 GPa,  $A_{\text{HS}}^{2+}$  acquire a  $U$  value of 6.74 eV, which is anomalously larger than that of  $A_{\text{LS}}^{2+}$   
146 (5.05 eV). This is likely related to the pressure that is out of the stability range of Mg-Pv.

147 A similar theoretical work about the  $U$  values in Fe- and Al-bearing Mg-Pv were done via  
148 the same method Hsu *et al.* (2012) used and their  $U$  values showed some discrepancies with  
149 our values ( $\pm 0.25$  eV at most). They, however, determined the  $U$  values for systems with an  
150 Fe concentration of 12.5%, whereas we examined a smaller and more reasonable Fe  
151 concentration of 6.25% in this work. The major reason for the small differences in  $U$  in two  
152 works could possibly be attributed to the fact that the  $U$  value could change depending on  
153 the Fe concentrations. Even though there are some discrepancies in  $U$ , those were found to  
154 produce insignificant effects on the XES spectra as shown below.

155

#### 156 4. Results and Discussion

157 Before discussing the calculated electronic structures in detail, we first present the  
158 distribution of the  $3d$  electrons of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  in the HS and LS to understand the  
159 simulated results more clearly (Figure 1) based on the traditional crystal field theory (Burns  
160 1993). Since the valence electron configuration of neutral  $\text{Fe}^0$  is  $3d^64s^2$ , the HS state of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$   
161 ( $3d^6$ ) has a magnetic moment of  $4 \mu_B$ , indicating that five  $d$  electrons occupy the spin-up  
162 state while the remaining occupy the spin-down state (Fig. 1a). For the case of LS  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ , half  
163 (three) of the  $d$  electrons occupy the spin-up and -down state equally, leading to a total  
164 magnetic moment of zero (Fig. 1b). As shown in Fig. 1 (c) and (d), the HS and LS states of  
165  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  respectively acquire the magnetic moments of  $5 \mu_B$  and  $1 \mu_B$ , since  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  possesses only  
166 five  $d$  electrons.

167 As the partial density of states (pDoS) of the Fe- $3d$  orbital in  $A_{\text{HS}}^{3+}$  under pressures  
168 of 30 and 120 GPa (see Fig. 2), the electronic structure of Fe in Fe-bearing Mg-Pv is  
169 insensitive to pressure, and only the width of occupied bands slightly increases with  
170 increasing pressure due to a decrease in the distances between Fe and its neighboring  
171 oxygen. Since the pressure-induced spin transitions of Fe in Fe-bearing Mg-Pv are usually  
172 observed in the range of 40 ~ 100 GPa (eg., Badro et al. 2004), the calculated pDoS of the  
173 Fe  $3d$  orbital in the HS (LS) state at 30 (120) GPa corresponds to pressures before (after) the  
174 spin transition and are respectively shown in Fig. 3. The simulated distributions of Fe  $3d$   
175 electrons are consistent with the schematic diagrams shown in Fig. 1, such as that  $A_{\text{HS}}^{2+}$  and  
176  $A_{\text{LS}}^{2+}$  have a total magnetic moment of  $4.0 \mu_B$  and  $0.0 \mu_B$ , respectively. The electronic



177 structures obtained within the GGA are distinctly different from that of the LSDA+*U*. For  
178 example, systems containing  $A_{\text{HS}}^{2+}$  and  $B_{\text{LS}}^{3+}$  become metallic based on the GGA, while the  
179 LSDA+*U* clearly show that they have insulating ground states, respectively, with 1.18 and  
180 1.44 eV band gaps. For some other cases, the GGA was found to produce insulating ground  
181 states but with band gaps that were too small. The LSDA+*U* can mend this notably.  
182 Experimental observation showed that at 23 GPa and depending on temperature,  
183  $(\text{Mg}_{0.93}\text{Fe}_{0.07})\text{SiO}_3$  Pv has an insulating band gap from 0.41 to 0.92 eV (Katsura et al. 1998).  
184 For each case, the 3*d* occupation depends strongly on the spin states of Fe, and it becomes  
185 much more localized after the HS to LS state transition, partially because the orbital splitting  
186 caused by the crystal field does not affect the distribution of LS occupied states. For  
187 example, when Fe substitutes at the B site and acquires the splitting between  $t_{2g}$  and  $e_g$   
188 orbitals induced by the octahedral crystal field, both  $t_{2g}$  and  $e_g$  states of the spin-up branch  
189 are occupied in the HS configuration, while Fe-3*d* electrons only distribute along the  $t_{2g}$   
190 orbital in the LS cases as already mentioned schematically in Fig. 1.

191 The simulated XES of  $A^{2+}$ ,  $A^{3+}$ , and  $B^{3+}$  are, respectively, presented in Figs. 4, 5,  
192 and 6. Similar to the pDoS, the *L*-edge XES of Fe also depends weakly on pressure, so that  
193 only the spectra under 30, 60, and 120 GPa, corresponding to pressures before, undergoing,  
194 and after the HS-LS transition, respectively, are shown. The spectra simulated within the  
195 GGA are also presented to help illustrate the effects of *U* correction. Within the LSDA+*U*,  
196 one main peak located at 709.0 eV is observed for the  $A_{\text{HS}}^{2+}$  case at 30 GPa, while one  
197 localized main peak appears at 711.0 eV for the  $A_{\text{LS}}^{2+}$  case at 120 GPa, indicating that the  
198 main peak of *L*-edge XES of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  substituted in the A site would be pushed up by  $\sim 2$  eV

199 across the HS-LS transition. The sharpness of the main peaks of the LS Fe reflects the  
200 higher localization of the  $3d$  electron in the LS state as shown in Fig. 3. Though the intensity  
201 of the main peak of  $A_{\text{HS}}^{2+}$  decreases with increasing pressure, the shift of the main peak and  
202 the change in its sharpness can therefore be available to identify the spin state of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  in  
203 Mg-Pv. In contrast, the spectral features from the GGA do not show any difference in the  
204 main peak position between the HS and LS cases except for some small localization. Our  
205 results based on the LSDA+ $U$  agree well with experimental observations (Lin et al. 2010),  
206 where a shift up ( $\sim 1.6$  eV) of the main peak of the Fe  $L$ -edge XES of ferroperricite was  
207 clearly observed during the spin transition. This again demonstrates that the Hubbard  $U$   
208 correction is a key to describing the XES features of Fe-bearing minerals properly. For IS  
209  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  at the A site, acquiring a magnetic moment of  $1 \mu_B$ , its stabilization in Mg-Pv is still  
210 under discussion. It was experimentally suggested to be a stable configuration (McCammon  
211 et al. 2008). However, previous theoretical works proposed a contrary opinion, since it has  
212 an enthalpy as much as 0.5 eV/Fe higher than the most stable case, HS  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  at the A site, for  
213 the whole LM pressure range (Bengtson et al., 2008; Hsu et al., 2010). The Fe  $L$ -edge XES  
214 technique should be a potential indicator about whether IS  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  at the A site will appear or  
215 not and can provide useful information for experimental analysis. Therefore, the  $L$ -edge  
216 XES spectra of IS  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  in the A site of Pv at 30 GPa were simulated as a test to show the  
217 general features of IS  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  at the A site, where the  $U$  value of 5.03 eV, obtained through the  
218 linear response method, was applied. As shown in Fig. 4(d), one main peak located at  $\sim 711$   
219 eV, which is very close to that of LS  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ , is observed in the calculated XES of IS  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ .  
220 Since the major spectral features of IS  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  are very similar to LS  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ , it is difficult to

221 distinguish IS  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  from LS  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  by using the Fe *L*-edge XES technique. Note that even  
222 though using very similar methods, the *U* values could be slightly different depending on the  
223 discrepancies of the calculation conditions, (e.g., iron concentration, as we mentioned  
224 previously). (Hsu et al. 2012; Tsuchiya and Wang 2013) To clarify how the uncertainty in *U*  
225 affects the XES features, we examined the spectra of all iron configurations at 30 GPa with  
226 variations of the *U* value.  $U \pm 1$  eV, which is sufficiently larger than the typical numerical  
227 uncertainty in *U*, were applied. For both HS and LS Fe, their major spectral features (e.g.,  
228 the main peak positions) were found to still remain unchanged, while it only changed the  
229 relative intensities of the main peaks a little.

230 As shown in Figs. 5 and 6, the spectral features of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  obtained via GGA are also  
231 significantly different from those obtained via LSDA+*U*. We hereafter focus only on the  
232 LSDA+*U* results. Unlike the cases of  $\text{A}_{\text{HS}}^{2+}$ , where only one sharp main peak appears, two  
233 and four main peaks are, respectively, observed in the range of 1.8 eV and 3.5 eV for the  
234  $\text{A}_{\text{HS}}^{3+}$  and  $\text{B}_{\text{HS}}^{3+}$  cases at 30 GPa. This can be explained by the relatively broader distribution  
235 of the occupied states of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  3*d* compared to that of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  (see Fig. 3), since the 3*d* levels for  
236  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  are deeper due to a stronger attractive potential, which leads to a stronger hybridization  
237 with the O 2*p* valence band. Differences between spectra of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  were therefore  
238 attributed mainly to their different attractive potentials. These clear differences in the main  
239 peaks suggest that their profile and position could be a good indicator to distinguish between  
240  $\text{A}_{\text{HS}}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{A}_{\text{HS}}^{3+}$ , and  $\text{B}_{\text{HS}}^{3+}$ . They are pushed up and converged to one main peak located about  
241 712.0 eV after the spin transition, indicating that similarly to the case of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ , the spin  
242 transition of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  can also be identified by the shift and the change in sharpness of their main

243 peaks. These spectral transmutations across the spin transition basically reflect the  
244 differences in the ground states electronic structures as shown in Fig. 3. As we mentioned  
245 above, the distribution of the occupied states of LS Fe  $3d$  is much narrower than HS Fe,  
246 since the orbital splitting caused by the crystal field is included only in the occupied states of  
247 HS Fe  $3d$ . In contrast, the splitting can be observed above the occupied states in LS Fe  $3d$ ,  
248 which is not detected by  $L$ -edge XES. The shift of the first main peaks of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  (4 eV) is,  
249 however, about two times larger than that of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  (2 eV). Therefore, the valence state (2+ or  
250 3+) of Fe would also be clearly distinguishable by detecting the shift of the first main peaks  
251 in the Fe  $L$ -edge XES across the spin transition. As shown in Figs. 5(d) and 6(d), the widths  
252 not only of the main peaks but also of the whole spectra for the  $A_{\text{HS}}^{3+}$  case (7.0 eV) are  
253 notably narrower than the counterparts for the  $B_{\text{HS}}^{3+}$  case (9.0 eV). This is because the  
254 average distance between oxygen and Fe of 1.87 Å in the  $B_{\text{HS}}^{3+}$  case is substantially shorter  
255 than the counterpart (2.03 Å) in the  $A_{\text{HS}}^{3+}$  case, and thus the hybridization between iron and  
256 oxygen is larger in the B site than in the A site. These results suggest that the width of the  
257 main peaks or whole spectra could be used to identify the coordination environment of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$   
258 (the Mg or Si site). These discussions strongly suggest that all of the spin states, valence  
259 states, and substitution sites of Fe in Mg-Pv are potentially distinguishable by analyzing the  
260 features of the Fe  $L$ -edge XES. In summary, the spin state could be clearly identified by the  
261 shift and sharpness of the main peaks across the spin transition, the valence state can be  
262 identified by the profile of the main peaks in the HS state and also by the shift of the first  
263 main peak across the spin transition, and the substituted site could be identified also by the  
264 forms of both main peaks and whole spectra. Finally, we would like to mention the

265 limitations of our present simulation. The multiplet effects describing the coupling between  
266 the  $2p$  and  $3d$  orbitals, which can introduce some minor spectral features such as the satellite  
267 peak ( $K\beta'$ ) of the Fe  $K$ -edge XES (Bardro et al. 2004), are not included in this work, since  
268 the simple Slater-transition method is applied. However, we believe that our results can  
269 describe the spectral features of Fe-bearing Mg-Pv under high pressure sufficiently, mainly  
270 because high-pressure Fe  $L$ -edge spectral experiments can usually detect only the major  
271 spectral features due to non-hydrostaticity, limited amount of sample, etc. (Lin et al. 2010).  
272 This is also the reason why all the discussion in this work focused on the main features of  
273 the simulated spectra. Since the  $2p$  hole spin-orbit coupling was also not considered in  
274 present calculations, the simulated spectra do not show the splitting between the  $L_2$  and  $L_3$   
275 peak. Our simulated results can present the features of a dominant  $L_3$  peak, which is the  
276 main target of mineral spectral analysis (van Aken et al. 1998; Lauterbach et al. 2000; Lin et  
277 al. 2010). Both  $L_2$  and  $L_3$  peaks show similar features, but the magnitude of the  $L_2$  peak is  
278 lower than  $L_3$ .

279

## 280 **5. Summary**

281 The  $L$ -edge XES features of Fe in Fe-bearing  $\text{MgSiO}_3$  Pv were investigated by the  
282 all-electron density functional method for the first time, combined with the internally  
283 consistent LSDA+ $U$  and the Slater-transition potential techniques. Different spin states  
284 (high- and low-spin), valence states (2+ and 3+), and substitution sites (Mg and Si site) of Fe  
285 were examined. Our results showed that both the spin states and the valence states of Fe can  
286 clearly be illustrated by a shift of the first main peaks across the spin transition. Furthermore,

287 the widths of the main peaks and the whole spectra of Fe in the high-spin state were found to  
288 be available to distinguish the substituted sites. Based on these theoretical predictions we  
289 propose that the Fe *L*-edge XES measurement is a useful experimental technique to study  
290 the state of iron in Fe-bearing lower mantle minerals. We invite corresponding experiments.

291

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296

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448 **Table**

449 **Table 1.** On-site Coulomb interaction ( $U$  in eV) optimized for Fe in different valence states  
450 (2+ and 3+), spin states (HS and LS state), and substitution sites (A and B site).

P(GPa)	$A_{\text{HS}}^{2+}$	$A_{\text{LS}}^{2+}$	$A_{\text{HS}}^{3+}$	$A_{\text{LS}}^{3+}$	$B_{\text{HS}}^{3+}$	$B_{\text{LS}}^{3+}$
0	6.74	5.05	3.93	5.32	3.64	5.11
30	4.44	5.14	3.91	5.30	3.60	5.25
60	3.85	5.23	3.89	5.33	3.59	5.35
120	3.64	5.40	3.89	5.45	3.62	5.50

451

452

453

454 **Figure captions**

455 **Figure 1.** Schematic diagrams of the distributions of Fe 3*d* electrons. (a) and (b)  
456 respectively show the Fe<sup>2+</sup> cases in the high-spin and low-spin state, and (c) and (d) the  
457 corresponding parts of the Fe<sup>3+</sup> cases. Up (down) arrows represent the electron with spin up  
458 (down), respectively.

459

460 **Figure 2.** Fe 3*d* partial density of states (pDoS) for A<sub>HS</sub><sup>3+</sup> under pressures of 30 GPa and  
461 120 GPa are shown in red-solid and blue-dashed line respectively.  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  respectively  
462 denote the spin-up and -down states. The vertical dashed line located at 0 eV represents the  
463 Fermi level.

464

465 **Figure 3.** Fe 3*d* pDoS for A<sub>HS</sub><sup>2+</sup> (a), A<sub>LS</sub><sup>2+</sup> (b), A<sub>HS</sub><sup>3+</sup> (c), A<sub>LS</sub><sup>3+</sup> (d), B<sub>HS</sub><sup>3+</sup> (e), and B<sub>LS</sub><sup>3+</sup> (f).

466

467 **Figure 4.** Calculated Fe *L*-edge XES spectra of A<sub>HS,IS,LS</sub><sup>2+</sup>-bearing Mg-Pv. The GGA results  
468 at 30, 60, and 120 GPa are shown in (a), (b), and (c), while the counterparts from the  
469 LSDA+*U* are in (d), (e), and (f), respectively. To clearly illustrate the spectral features of HS  
470 Fe based on the LSDA+*U* method, its intensity is magnified two times.

471

472 **Figure 5.** Calculated Fe *L*-edge XES spectra of A<sub>HS,LS</sub><sup>3+</sup>-bearing Mg-Pv. The GGA results at  
473 30, 60, and 120 GPa are shown in (a), (b), and (c), while the LSDA+*U* counterparts are in  
474 (d), (e), and (f), respectively.

475

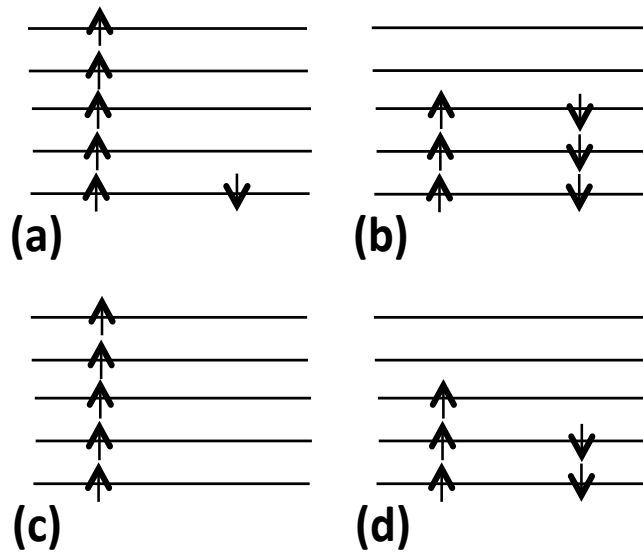
476 **Figure 6.** Calculated Fe *L*-edge XES spectra of  $B_{HS,LS}^{3+}$ -bearing Mg-Pv. The GGA results at  
477 30, 60, and 120 GPa are shown in (a), (b), and (c), while the counterparts from the LSDA+*U*  
478 are in (d), (e), and (f), respectively.

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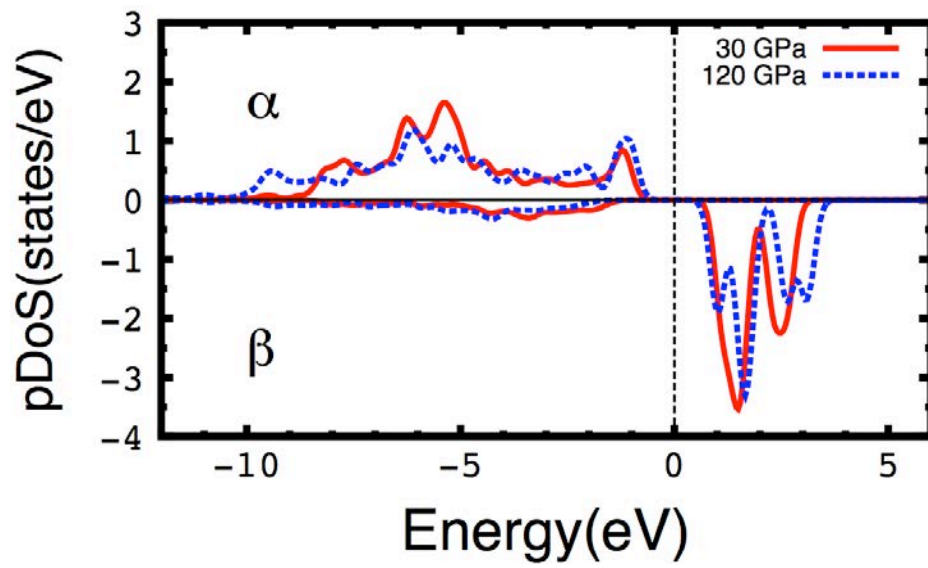


482

483 **Figure 1**

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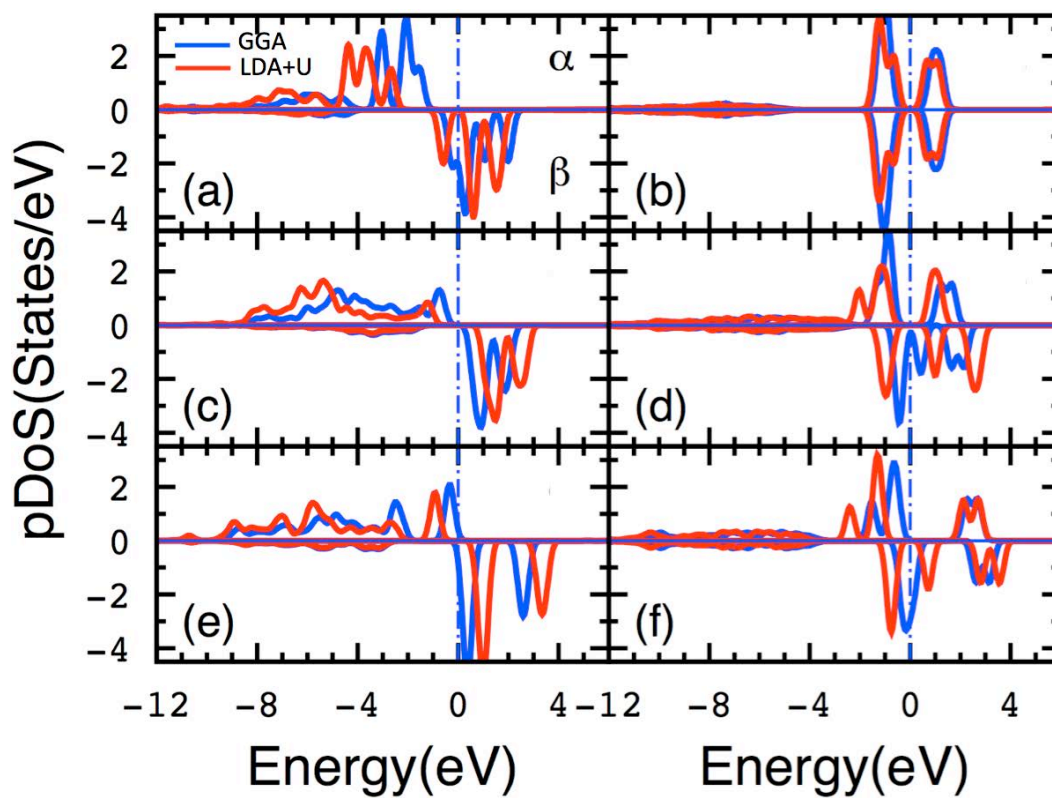
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487 **Figure 2**

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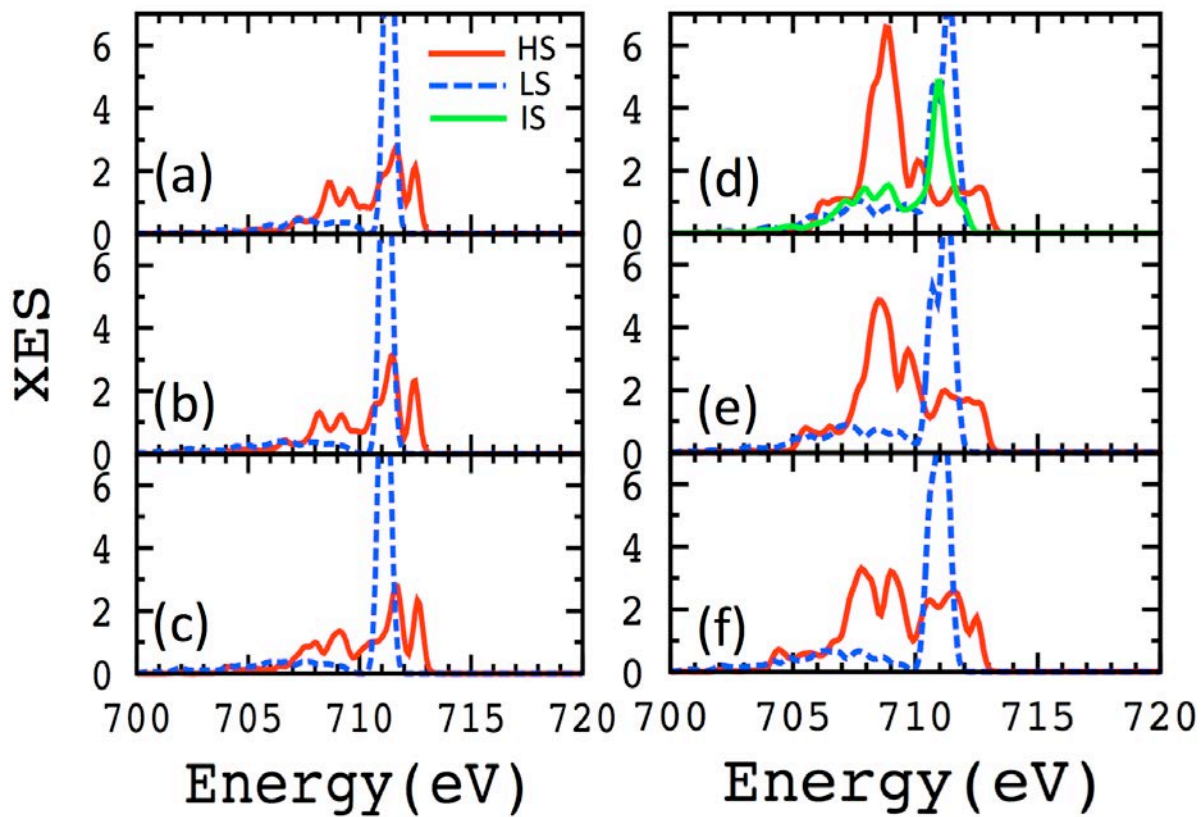
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491 **Figure 3**

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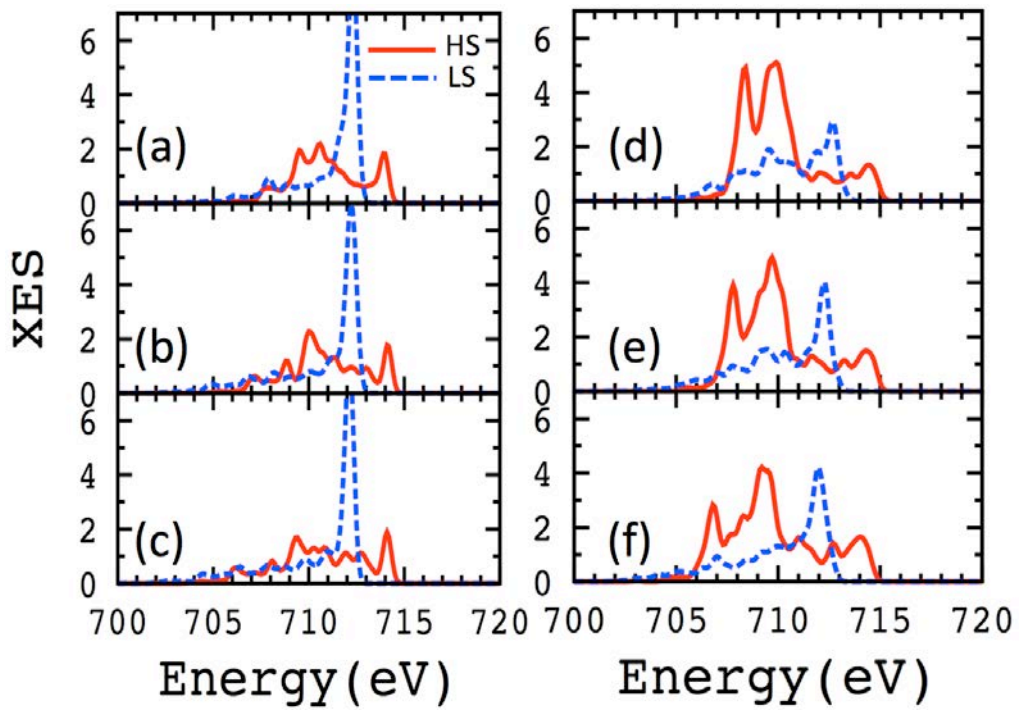
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496 **Figure 4**

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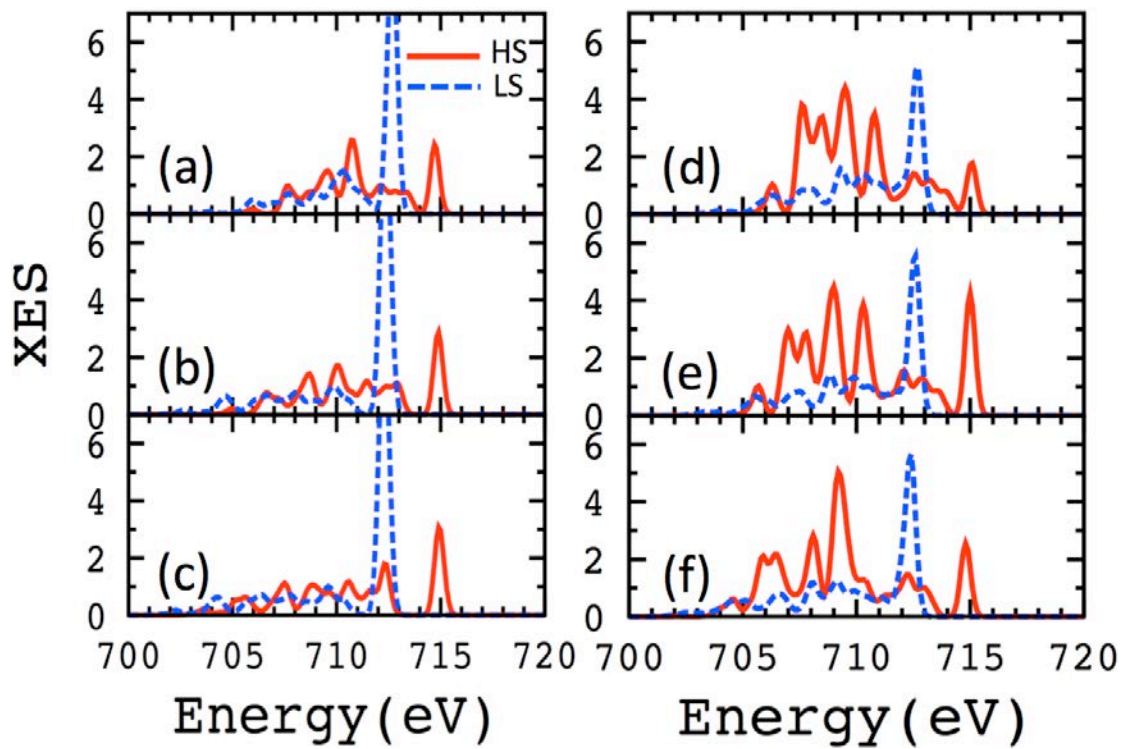
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500 **Figure 5**

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504 **Figure 6**

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